

WISDOM

“...WISDOM IS JUSTIFIED OF ALL HER CHILDREN.” (LUKE 7:35)

“O! could I but know, and be sure, I am a child of God, I should be quite happy. The want of this makes me very uncomfortable.” Such is the language of many a doubting believer. Well, soul, here is a mark laid down: by it judge of thyself, and know thy state. Art thou a child of wisdom? If so, thou wilt justify wisdom. But what is wisdom? What is it to justify wisdom? Firstly, Thy Saviour is *“the wisdom of God”* (1 CORINTHIANS 1:24). He is not only wise to win souls, but is wisdom itself. He makes all His children wise unto salvation, by knowing Him, *“of God, made unto them wisdom”* (1 CORINTHIANS 1:30). Wisdom is here arraigned, and His ways censured by the calumny [falsity] of fools. He is condemned as a licentious person; a sot [drunkard]; an epicure [glutton]; a jovial friend and companion of wicked sinners. If you are a child of wisdom, you will also meet with the same treatment from a carnal world and self-righteous men. If you dare openly confess salvation by the Son of God alone—free and full justification unto eternal life, by His blood and righteousness only, without your works contributing thereto, either in whole or in part, you will be condemned as a licentious [immoral] antinomian. Both the profane and self-righteous will unite, to proclaim you a friend to sin, and an enemy to all good works. Why? Because their carnal hearts were never under the constraints of Christ’s love. Their licentious thoughts were never brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Therefore, their lips proclaim their ignorance, while they are opened against His truths. Now, you are called to justify wisdom, who has justified you. Secondly, How is this to be done? First, Hold fast, wisdom’s truths in your hearts, as your chief glory, in opposition to all gain-sayers. So, second, From a warm and lively sense of comfort by them, your lives will justify their holy influence. You will loudly proclaim to all the world, that, though you dare not attempt a single act, to justify your souls before God; yet you dare not continue in sin, because grace hath abounded. Your holy faith forbids it. The heavenly love of Christ animates to all obedience. Your glorious hope in Christ makes you ready, and obedient, unto every good word and work. For the grace of God which bringeth salvation to the soul, teaches all the children of wisdom to deny all *“ungodliness and worldly lusts, [and to live] soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”* (TITUS 2:12). Thus we know, we have the faith of God’s elect, and are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus [GALATIANS 3:26].

*I know my soul is made alive,
By Jesus’ mighty pow’r;
For sin I hate, against it strive,
And pray to love Christ more.*

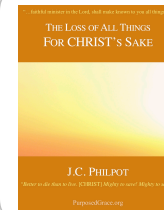
[PASTOR] WILLIAM MASON

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

November 4th, 2018

“Turn us again, O GOD, and
cause thy face to shine; and
we shall be saved”

(PSALM 80:3)



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PSALM 85 — REVIVE US AGAIN

Recorded on Wednesday evening, October 18, 2017

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GIVING ALL DILIGENCE

"...GIVING ALL DILIGENCE, ADD TO YOUR FAITH..." (2 PETER 1:5)

Here is the Christian's work. All diligence is required in it. O believer, be assured (the Lord impress it upon your heart and mine) there is no being a lively, comfortable disciple, without it. Beware you do not add to your faith licentious notions and antinomian [ungodly] sloth, instead of Christian virtues, holy tempers, and heavenly affections, which adorn our profession, and glorify our Saviour. Ever remember, you are called to honor Christ by your life on earth, as well as to be saved by and enjoy Him in heaven. By faith we receive Christ, rest upon Him, and look to Him alone for justification unto eternal life. But a lively faith will not leave us barren and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. If there be not a habitual disposition of soul, to add to faith, virtue, knowledge, patience, godliness, etc., [2 Peter 1:5-8] we should examine and see to it; lest, instead of Christ dwelling in our *hearts* by faith, we have only a notion which floats in our *heads*. If so, this will only make us idle talkers; but not diligent workers and holy walkers. That we are guilty sinners, justified and saved by Christ **ONLY**, is a truth which is ever to be held fast in the conscience. We can add nothing to Christ's work. To attempt to do any thing towards our own justification before God, is the basest act of unbelief. But faith is the queen of graces. She lives upon the King of saints. She will have a noble [entourage] to attend her. Let us never desire to get beyond this blessed rule of *addition*. Let us never *subtract* from it. Let us give all diligence to *multiply* more and more. Have we got into the *rule of three*? Do we know the love of the Three One God?—the everlasting love of God the Father; the redeeming love of God the Son; the sanctifying love

of God the Holy [Spirit]? Still we must never leave the rule of addition: add to your faith; but go on to all diligence in *practice*. Christ hath taught it: faith enjoins it; love constrains to it: Christ's honor and glory demand it. But beware of getting into *fraction*, as though any thing you do gives you a title to glory. But see, hence, the glory and spirituality of the gospel, and the reason why the belief of it is called, "*our most holy faith*." (Jude 1:20.) We are called by the faith of Christ to glorify God, by adding an obedient life to our most holy faith. This is our way in Christ: walk in it, and ye shall find rest for your souls from Christ, [Jeremiah 6:16].

Add to my faith!—the sluggard smiles: "I want no more than Christ:"

But Him you want, for sin beguiles—His truth you do resist.

Dear Lord, stir up to diligence, To walk in all thy ways:

O! arm my soul with vigilance, Which thou hast saved by grace.

[PASTOR] **WILLIAM MASON**

LOOKING UNTO HIM

"LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE" (ISAIAH 45:22)

It is written of all the elect of God, all those redeemed by Christ, and those regenerated by the Holy Spirit, it is written of every sinner who looks to Christ alone to be saved, "*They shall see His face*" (REVELATION 22:4). Reader, this is heaven for the believer! This is the glory and eternal joy of the believing sinner! Beloved, we will see the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, face to face! He says, "*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else*" (ISAIAH 45:22).

Reader, it will not do you any good to look to yourself, look away from self to Christ. Nor will it do you any good to look to religious leaders, the church, or doctrinal truth, for there is no salvation to be found there; rather look away from these things and look to Christ alone.

You see, the desert Israelites were not saved by looking to their poison infected wounds. They did not save themselves by looking to Moses, nor the rod that he held in his hands. So how were they saved? They were saved by beholding the serpent of brass: "*...if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived*" (NUMBERS 21:9).

Our Lord declares "*...as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*" Thus beloved, we are saved looking to Christ: "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (JOHN 3:14-15,16). God help the reader and the writer alike to ever look unto Christ for all our salvation, both now and for ever. AMEN!

PASTOR